



## Prayer Requests:

*"Pray for one another"*

- James 5:16 -

- Michael Baldasaro (Wayne & Jan's son in law) successful surgery on 9/21 addressed cancer of the tonsils; has completed chemo-therapy treatments and will continue to be monitored; grateful for continued prayers for the family ☺
- Louis Bureau - facing yet another surgery on his left shoulder in order to repair a damaged tendon, obviously missed in previous surgery
- Josiah Carelse & Family - working with the Lord's church in Cape Town, South Africa
- Diane Cote - left leg amputated up to the knee as a result of diabetes; now using a temporary prosthesis and undergoing prosthetic rehab
- Filomena Derecho (Cathy's mother in the Philippines) - numerous health issues
- Reyderick Derecho - permanently disabled
- Linda Gloman - colon cancer was detected in a colonoscopy; laparoscopic surgery successful; chemo ended on 1/25; having a CT scan on 2/22 and then every 6 months for 5 years; *"Chuck and I would like to thank everyone for their continued prayers. They are appreciated more than we can express in words."*
- Molly Urghart (mother of Wayne & Jan's granddaughter, River)- her stage 4 esophageal cancer is growing again and is affecting other organs; now undergoing a different kind of aggressive chemotherapy & radiation as a last resort; prayers needed and appreciated
- Please pray for our nation (1 Timothy 2:1-3)
- Please pray for those not with us today — the sick & suffering and those who are spiritually weak & struggling

*"Pray without ceasing."* — 1 Thess 5:17

## The Steadfast Love of the Lord



The older I get, the more convinced I become that fallen man simply does not have the capacity to fully fathom nor completely comprehend the depth and intensity of God's magnanimous love. Try as we might, we will never be able to know or appreciate the full extent of the tremendous love that has been graciously extended to us through Jesus Christ our Lord. To be fair, in our physical human existence, the only tangible point of reference that we have is the love we give *to* others and the love we receive *from* others. And the love generated by human beings certainly pales in comparison to the divine love of God. For the lovingkindness of God is an everlasting love (Jer 31:3).

God Himself declares that His ways are higher than our ways, and His thoughts higher than our thoughts. In describing the noble character of God, the Psalmist affirms: "But You, O Lord, are a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering and abundant in mercy and truth" (Ps 85:15). Each one of these divine characteristics is deeply rooted *in* and inextricably linked *to* the steadfast love of God. And so, we sing: "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Thy faithfulness!" (Lam 3:22).

As humans, our love toward others tends to diminish when someone hurts, wrongs, or otherwise fails us. Not so with God. "God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom 5:8). Although He has seen each of us at our worst, God's love remains strong and steadfast. As the Lord Himself attests: "The Lord, the Lord God, [*is*] merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth" (Ex 34:6). Paul asks the question, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?" He then answers: "I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom 8:38-39).

"Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!" (Rom 11:33). No, we will not in this life be able to effectively grasp or adequately understand the steadfast love the Lord has for us. But, by faith, we acknowledge and gratefully accept the truth that "God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (Jn 3:16). Without Christ, our sins will condemn us to an eternity in hell (Ezek 18:20; Mt 10:28; Mt 25:41; Mk 16:16; Rom 6:23; 2 Thess 1:9; Jude 1:7; Rev 20:14-15).

"But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus" (Eph 2:4-7). This is the Gospel (Rom 1:16; 1 Cor 15:1-8). And this is good news! — **Terry Schmidt** ✍

**"Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"**

- Acts 16:30 -



**Hear** the Gospel - John 6:44-45; Rom 10:14,17

**Believe** [trust in] God - John 3:16; 8:24; Ac 16:31  
Heb 11:6

**Repent** of sins - Luke 13:1-5; Acts 2:38; 3:19; 17:30

**Confess** Christ - Mt 10:32-33; Ac 8:36-37;  
Rom 10:8-10

**Be baptized** - Mk 16:16; Ac 2:38; 8:36; 22:16;  
1 Pet 3:21

**Be faithful** unto death - Mt 7:21; Rev 2:10

☺ **Welcome Visitors!** ☺

*We are glad to have you as our honored guests!*



## To Know the Love of Christ!

<sup>14</sup> For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>15</sup> from whom the whole family in Heaven and earth is named, <sup>16</sup> that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man; <sup>17</sup> that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, <sup>18</sup> may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth and length and depth and height, <sup>19</sup> and to know the love of Christ, which surpasseth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God. <sup>20</sup> Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, <sup>21</sup> unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen. — *Ephesians 3:14-21*

### Visits to Our Web Page

Last Week: 10,766

This Month: 25,542



# SNACKS!

Feb 18: Betty

Feb 25: Cathy

### Attendance & Contribution

for February 11, 2024

Attendance — 20

Contribution — \$662

## Order of Worship

February 18, 2024

*“Praise the LORD; for the LORD is good: sing praises unto His name; for it is pleasant.”*

📖 - Psalm 135:3 - 📖

Song Leader: *Terry Schmidt*

Song—256

Opening Prayer: *Jim Miller*

Song—274-a

Scripture Reading: *Louis Bureau*  
~ Hosea 4:1-2; 6; 11-13; 17-18 ~

Song—301

The Lord’s Supper

*Wayne Sampson* (lead) & *Jason Kennedy*

Song—273

Sermon: *Terry Schmidt*  
“Hosea—Touching the Broken Heart of God”

Song—261

Announcements & Closing Prayer  
*George Cuvellier*

Lord’s Supper Prep: *Betty Schmidt*

## Southern Maine Church of Christ

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*We love Him, because He first loved us.*  
- 1 John 4:19 -

## February 18, 2024

### Meeting on the Lord’s Day:

9:30 am — Bible Class

10:30 am — Worship

*“Let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”*

- Hebrews 10:24-25 -

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